

# KAUR shut down, budget cited

By Jim McAdaragh  
Editor

Nothing but static greeted radio listeners who turned their dials to KAUR-FM this summer.

Citing financial mismanagement at KAUR, Augustana's administration shutdown the college radio station in July, locked the doors on the staff and began a shakeup of KAUR's management system.

The result of these actions could be diminished student con-

trol over the financial dealings of the radio station, admitted one top administrative official.

KAUR general manager Lee Axdahl resigned in protest of the station shutdown. He said that the administration was dealing with KAUR in a heavy-handed fashion.

The administration plans to have KAUR back on the air by mid-September.

KAUR's financial problems lie behind the shutdown, according

to sources in the administration.

KAUR spent \$20,000 last year, \$3,000 more than its budget allocation, according to Dr. Chester Whitney, vice president for financial affairs. Whitney ordered KAUR off the air in July.

KAUR is financed through a set fee charged to each full-time student. Traditionally that fee had been \$5. Last school year the fee was raised to \$10. In April, the ASA voted to rollback the fee to \$7.50 for the 1978-79

school year.

Axdahl admitted that KAUR overran its budget, but not to the extent the administration claims. He said that Whitney may be underestimating the station's revenue last year when the student fee was \$10.

Whitney said that the budget overrun was not the only reason he closed the station. "KAUR was in the process of installing new equipment and would have to have been off the air in July

anyway. Also, they had staff shortages. Lee Axdahl was practically running the station himself. Adding those problems to the budget difficulties, I decided it was best to take KAUR off the air for a few months," Whitney said.

"KAUR has budgetary problems" Whitney said. "They substantially overspent their budget. We're not saying it was the result of mismanagement by anyone.

KAUR/to page 2

# KAUR/Less student control

## Continued from page one

They simply had problems. They need more budgetary direction and control."

KAUR is controlled by the KAUR Advisory Board, a group of students, faculty, administrators and Sioux Falls broadcasting officials. Last spring the Advisory Board came under fire for its alleged failure to monitor the station's activities.

Augustana president Charles Balcer is revamping the Advisory board by appointing a new membership and drawing up stricter guidelines for the Board's control over KAUR's finances.

Balcer has appointed Gina Hartig to replace Clara Lee as faculty advisor to KAUR.

Whitney said that KAUR will be back on the air as soon as the new budget procedures are final-

ized and a new general manager is selected.

"Basically what we've done will mean a little less carte blanche

student control of KAUR and more institutional direction," Whitney said.

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